# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly	)	
situated,	) )	No. 10 CV 2991
<b>v.</b>	)	Judge Virginia Kendall
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation,	)	Magistrate Judge Soat Brown
Defendant.	)	
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## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF JOINT MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Defendant Pizza Paninos, Inc. d/b/a Panino's Pizzeria ("Paninos") and Plaintiffs Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin (the "Class Representatives" or "Plaintiffs"), on behalf of themselves and the proposed Class Members, by and through their respective counsel, hereby jointly move this Court for final approval of the Class Action Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") they have entered into. (See, Settlement Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1).

The Settlement Agreement is the product of extensive arms-length negotiations between the parties, and the parties believe it represents a fair, reasonable and adequate settlement of the claims asserted by the Class Representatives, individually and on behalf of the Class Members. Indeed, the terms of the proposed settlement are consistent with other class action settlements of claims throughout the United States which, like the claims asserted by the Class Representatives here, are based on alleged violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, 15 U.S.C. §

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

1681c(g)(1) ("FACTA"). Under the circumstances, the parties submit that final approval of the Settlement Agreement is warranted.

Pursuant to the Court's preliminary approval order, a copy of the Summary Notice of Class Action Settlement was published in the *Chicago Tribune* with local circulation around the Paninos restaurant in Chicago on two (2) consecutive days. In addition, the Full Notice of Certified Class Action Settlement was published on Plaintiffs' counsel's website, which had the following internet domain: www.attorneyzim.com. The last day to file objections to the Settlement was July 11, 2011. This was also the last day to request exclusion from the Class. No class members have submitted an objection to the settlement or requested exclusion from the Settlement Class.

On the record before the Court, the Settlement should be finally approved.

#### I. BACKGROUND OF THE LITIGATION.

On July 9, 2010, the Class Representatives filed their Amended Class Action Complaint in this action alleging that Paninos willfully violated FACTA by displaying the expiration date of customer credit and debit cards on receipts issued at Paninos' restaurant. The Class Representatives purport to represent a class consisting of:

All persons who, between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010, made a credit or debit card purchase at the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL and received, at the point of sale or transaction, a printed receipt which displayed the expiration date of that person's credit or debit card.

Paninos has denied all substantive allegations, including Plaintiffs' allegation that it willfully violated FACTA. In addition, Paninos has presented evidence establishing that, shortly after receiving notice of this action, on May 29, 2010, it verified that, from that moment on, its guest receipts were not printing expiration dates of its customers' credit and debit cards. All told, more

than sixty thousand guest receipts were issued from June 3, 2008 to May 29, 2010.<sup>2</sup> The parties agree, however, that neither Plaintiffs nor any putative Class Member have suffered any actual monetary injury as a result of the content of Paninos' guest receipts.

Soon after the filing of the Complaint, the parties began negotiating a settlement that ultimately became embodied in the Settlement Agreement. While the specific terms of the Settlement Agreement were heavily negotiated, the general terms and structure of the settlement closely track those of virtually all other FACTA class action settlements that have been reached throughout the United States.

#### II. THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Like the other FACTA class action settlements of which Class Counsel and counsel for Paninos are aware, the Settlement Agreement requires Paninos to provide all Class Members and all other Paninos customers with a 10% discount off their entire pre-tax purchase on all purchases made on twelve (12) separate dates. Specifically, the key provisions of the settlement include:

- Paninos shall hold 12 (twelve) Sale Events on 12 (twelve) separate dates over the course of one year, with each Sale Event taking place approximately one month after the previous Sale Event so that approximately one Sale Event is held every month for one calendar year. At each Sale Event, any person (except employees of Defendant) making a dine-in, carry-out and/or delivery purchase transaction at or from the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL shall receive an automatic discount of ten percent (10%) from the total pre-tax purchase price. All persons, regardless of whether or not they are members of the Class, shall be entitled to receive the automatic discount on as many purchases as they make during each Sale Event. There is no cap on this relief.
- Paninos will pay \$2,000 to each Class Representative as compensation and consideration for their efforts on behalf of the Class;

<sup>2</sup> To be clear, the actual Settlement Class will be less than sixty thousand, as Panino's relies on repeat business, and, accordingly, it is presumed that some of its customers made multiple credit and debit card purchases during the subject timeframe.

- Paninos will pay Class Counsel's Court approved attorneys' fees and costs up to a maximum of \$35,000; and
- The Class Representatives and Class Members will provide Paninos with a full and final release of all Released Claims.

As noted above, both Class Counsel and counsel for Paninos have searched for other FACTA class action settlements throughout the United States. Of the hundreds of FACTA class actions that were filed throughout the United States since FACTA went into effect for most merchants on December 4, 2006, only a relative handful have resulted in class settlements. Of those class settlements of which the parties are aware, all have resulted in discount, coupon or voucher based settlements similar to (and often less favorable to class members than) the Settlement Agreement at issue here.

For the reasons set forth below, the proposed settlement fulfills the requirements for final approval under well-established Seventh Circuit authority.

# III. THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT EXCEEDS THE STANDARDS FOR JUDICIAL APPROVAL.

The Settlement is the product of their extensive investigation, sophisticated economic analysis, and intensive, arm's-length settlement negotiations. Under the applicable standards, the Court should approve the Settlement and permit the Class members to obtain the benefit of the significant recovery the Settlement represents.

# A. Courts Strongly Favor Settlement in Class Actions.

There is an overriding public interest in settling litigation, and this is particularly true in class actions. *See, Isby v. Bayh*, 75 F.3d 1191, 1196 (7th Cir. 1996) ("Federal courts naturally favor the settlement of class action litigation"); *Armstrong v. Bd. of Sch. Dirs.*, 616 F.2d 305, 312 (7th Cir.

1980) ("It is axiomatic that the federal courts look with great favor upon the voluntary resolution of litigation through settlement"), *overruled on other grounds by Felzen v. Andreas*, 134 F.3d 873 (7th Cir. 1998). Class action settlements minimize the litigation expenses of the parties and reduce the strain such litigation imposes upon already scarce judicial resources. *See, Cotton v. Hinton*, 559 F.2d 1326, 1331 (5th Cir. 1977).

# B. The Standard for Approval.

In determining whether to grant final approval, the Court's inquiry "is limited to the consideration of whether the proposed settlement is lawful, fair, reasonable, and adequate." *Isby*, 75 F.3d at 1196. The Sixth Circuit recently explained:

[The Court's] task is not to decide whether one side is right or even whether one side has the better of these arguments. Otherwise, [the Court] would be compelled to defeat the purpose of a settlement in order to approve a settlement. The question rather is whether the parties are using settlement to resolve a legitimate legal and factual disagreement.

UAW v. Gen. Motors Corp., 497 F.3d 615, 632 (6th Cir. 2007) (approving class action settlements).

Because the very point of compromise is to avoid determining unsettled issues and the waste and expense of litigation, the Court does not "decide the merits of the case or resolve unsettled legal questions." *Carson v. Am. Brands*, 450 U.S. 79, 88 n.14 (1981). *See also, E.E.O.C. v. Hiram Walker & Sons, Inc.*, 768 F.2d 884, 889 (7th Cir. 1985) (the district court is to "refrain from resolving the merits of the controversy or making a precise determination of the parties' respective legal rights"), *cert. denied*, 478 U.S. 1004 (1986); *Detroit v. Grinnell Corp.*, 495 F.2d 448, 456 (2d Cir. 1974) (the trial court does not "have the right or the duty to reach any ultimate conclusions on the issues of fact and law which underlie the merits of the dispute"); 7B Wright & Miller, FED. PRAC. & PROC.at § 1797.5 ("the court may not try disputed issues in the case since the whole

purpose behind a compromise is to avoid a trial ... Rather the judge is restricted to determining whether the terms proposed are fair and reasonable.").

There is not just one settlement that alone is reasonable in a case, but rather there is "a range of reasonableness with respect to a settlement—a range which recognizes the uncertainties of law and fact in any particular case and the concomitant risks and costs necessarily inherent in taking any litigation to completion." *Frank v. Eastman Kodak Co.*, 228 F.R.D. 174, 186 (W.D.N.Y. 2005) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). "A just result is often no more that an arbitrary point between competing notions of reasonableness." *In re Corrugated Container Antitrust Litig. (II)*, 659 F.2d 1322, 1325 (5th Cir. 1981). Thus, "[i]t is neither required, nor is it possible for a court to determine that the settlement is the fairest possible resolution of the claims of every individual class member; rather, the settlement, taken as a whole, must be fair, adequate and reasonable." *Shy v. Navistar Int'l Corp.*, No. C-3-92-333, 1993 U.S. Dist. Lexis 21291, at \*11 (S.D. Ohio 1993) (citation omitted). *See also*, 5 MOORE'S FED. PRAC. at § 23.164[2] ("a proposed settlement may be fair and adequate even though it amounts to only a fraction of the potential recovery in a fully litigated case").

Evaluation and approval of the Settlement is committed to the sound discretion of the Court. The proper focus "is upon 'the general principles governing approval of class action settlements and not upon the 'substantive law governing the claims asserted in the litigation.' " *Isby*, 75 F.3d at 1197, quoting *Armstrong*, 616 F.2d at 315. The Court has wide latitude in making this determination. There is "no requirement that an evidentiary hearing be conducted as a precondition to approving a settlement in a class action suit." *Depoister v. Mary M. Holloway Found.*, 36 F.3d 582, 586 (7th Cir. 1994). Therefore, the Court "may limit the fairness hearing to whatever is

necessary to aid it in reaching an informed, just and reasoned decision" and should not resort to a full-blown trial on the merits. *UAW*, 497 F.3d at 635 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

# C. Armstrong Considerations.

The Seventh Circuit has established the appropriate standard and considerations for final approval of a class-action settlement. In evaluating whether the proposed settlement is lawful, fair, reasonable and adequate, the Court should consider: (1) the strength of the case for plaintiffs on the merits, balanced against the amount offered in settlement; (2) the defendant's ability to pay; (3) the complexity, length, and expense of further litigation; (4) the amount of opposition to the settlement; (5) the presence of collusion in reaching the settlement; (6) the reaction of class members to the settlement; (7) the opinion of competent counsel; and (8) the stage of the proceedings and the amount of discovery completed. *Armstrong*, 616 F.2d at 314.

Each of these factors in this case supports approval of the Settlement. In the aggregate, the applicable factors overwhelmingly militate in favor of approval of the Settlement because they demonstrate that the Settlement is lawful, fair, reasonable, and adequate.

#### 1. Strength of the Case for Plaintiffs on the Merits.

#### a. Plaintiffs Faced Considerable Risk In Establishing Liability.

In assessing the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the Settlement, the Court should balance the risks of establishing liability against the benefits afforded by the Settlement, and the immediacy and certainty of an adequate recovery against the risks of continuing litigation.

As the court has noted, "no matter how confident one may be of the outcome of litigation, such confidence is often misplaced." *State of West Virginia v. Chas. Pfizer & Co.*, 314 F.Supp. 710, 743-44 (S.D.N.Y. 1970), *aff'd*, 440 F.2d 1079 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 404 U.S. 871 (1971); *see also*, *Bell Atlantic Corp.*, 2 F.3d at 1313 ("Even if plaintiffs hoped to secure a large damage award, this

would have to be drastically discounted by the improbability of their success on the merits ....").

There was unlikely to be any smoking gun evidence of Paninos' willful noncompliance with FACTA's truncation requirements. For example, Paninos did not belong to a trade association which disseminated information regarding FACTA's truncation requirements to its members. Further, there is significant, albeit non-binding, authority adverse to class certification in the FACTA context.

Furthermore, Paninos has produced evidence indicating that, even before FACTA went into effect, it engaged in efforts specifically designed to insure its compliance with FACTA, and that those efforts resulted in fully compliant credit card slips. Paninos has also produced evidence indicating that its alleged non-compliance was caused by the actions of a third party vendor that, unbeknownst to Paninos, did not properly follow Paninos' instructions. Paninos had nothing whatsoever to gain by failing to comply with FACTA. Indeed, soon after it was served with a copy of the Complaint in this action, Paninos ensured that its guest receipts no longer displayed the expiration date of customers' credit and debit cards. As a result, Plaintiffs' ability to establish a willful violation of FACTA is, at best, uncertain.

In the context of this litigation, the risks that Plaintiffs face in establishing liability are manifest, and this factor thus favors approval of the proposed Settlement.

# b. Plaintiffs Face Considerable Risk In Establishing A Sustainable Statutory Damage Award.

If Plaintiffs succeeded in establishing liability, significant risks would still remain with respect to Plaintiffs' ability to prove a *sustainable* class-based damage award. Specifically, statutory damages in this case range from \$100 to \$1,000 per transaction. There are approximately 60,000 transactions at issue. If liability were proven in this case, Paninos would face potentially annihilating

class-wide statutory damage exposure.

Plaintiffs seriously question whether damages of this magnitude against Paninos, against the backdrop of the statutory violation at issue, could withstand an almost certain Due Process challenge by Paninos. *State Farm Mutual Insurance Co. v. Campbell*, 538 U.S. 408 (2003).

In addition, Plaintiffs' ability to prove a "willful" violation of FACTA is a prerequisite to *any* statutory damage award. As noted above, there are no guarantees that Plaintiffs would be able to sustain this burden. *Perry v. FleetBoston*, 299 F.R.D. 105, 115-116 (E.D. Pa. 2005).

This factor favors approval of the proposed Settlement.

### 2. Paninos' Ability to Pay.

As noted above, statutory damages in this case range from \$100 to \$1,000 per transaction, with approximately 60,000 transactions at issue. During settlement negotiations, Paninos, a small, local, family-owned business, presented financial records indicating that payment of an award based on these figures – ranging from \$6 million to \$60 million – would destroy Paninos' business viability. However, Paninos has the resources to satisfy the terms of the proposed Settlement. Therefore, this factor strongly favors the proposed settlement.

# 3. The Reaction Of The Class To The Settlement Has Been Overwhelmingly Favorable.

After the publication of adequate notice consistent with the Court's directive in the Preliminary Approval Order, there have been **no** objections to the Settlement and **no** requests to optout of the Settlement. Courts recognize that, if only a small number of objections are received, that fact can be viewed as indicative of the adequacy of the settlement. See, In re Visa Check/Mastermoney Antitrust Litig., 297 F. Supp. 2d 503, 511 (E.D.N.Y. 2003); D'Amato v.

Deutsche Bank, 236 F.3d 78, 86-87 (2nd Cir. 2001). This fact plainly favors final approval of the Settlement.

# 4. The Settlement was Negotiated at Arm's-Length, and is Not Collusive.

The requirement that class action settlements be fair is designed to protect against collusion among the parties. *See, In re Mid-Atlantic Toyota Antitrust Litig.*, 564 F. Supp. 1379, 1383 (D. Md. 1983) (on preliminary approval). When negotiated at arm's length, a proposed settlement is presumptively fair and reasonable. *See, Goldsmith v. Tech Solutions Co.*, No. 92-C-4374, 1995 U.S. Dist. Lexis 15093, at \*10 n.2 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 10, 1995) ("it may be presumed that the agreement is fair and adequate where, as here, a proposed settlement is the product of arm's-length negotiations"); 2 NEWBERG ON CLASS ACTIONS, § 11.40 at 451 (2d ed. 1985).

Thus, settlements proposed by experienced counsel as the result of arm's-length negotiations are entitled to deference from the court. *See*, *e.g.*, *Goldsmith*, 1995 U.S. Dist. Lexis 15093, at \*10 n.2; *In re Linerboard Antitrust Litig.*, 292 F. Supp. 2d 631, 640 (E.D. Pa. 2003) ("A presumption of correctness is said to attach to a class settlement reached in arms-length negotiations between experienced, capable counsel after meaningful discovery.") (*quoting Hanrahan v. Britt*, 174 F.R.D. 356, 366 (E.D. Pa. 1997)). The initial presumption in favor of such settlements reflects courts' understanding that vigorous negotiations between seasoned counsel protect against collusion and advance the fairness concerns of Rule 23(e).

Throughout the negotiations in this case, the parties remained adversarial, yet professional. Counsel for both parties are highly experienced litigators who had negotiated numerous class action settlements before the present Settlement was achieved. Paninos' counsel persistently sought to minimize the financial and other burdens and risks to be assumed by their client in the proposed

settlement, while Class Counsel equally persistently and forcefully pressed for the greatest achievable advantage for the Class at every turn. These factors strongly support approval of the Settlement.

### 5. The Settlement is Fair in the Opinion of Competent Counsel.

Counsel for the parties have performed extensive research into previously-litigated FACTA cases, and have done thorough evaluations of prior settlements. Counsel was aware of the following:

- That there an estimated 60,000 transactions during which customers may have received receipts which displayed their credit or debit card expiration dates;
- That Paninos' primary liability defense was going to be a lack of willfulness on the part of Paninos under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as amended by FACTA, in light of Paninos' use of an outside vendor prior to the compliance deadline;
- That there is significant, albeit non-binding authority adverse to class certification in the FACTA context;
- That there was unlikely to be any smoking gun evidence of Paninos' willful noncompliance with FACTA's truncation requirements;
- That without evidence of malice or other indicia of malfeasance, a jury is unlikely to want to impose potentially crippling damages upon a local business that is generally an upstanding corporate citizen particularly where there is no evidence that Plaintiffs or any Class Member has sustained any actual monetary injury; and
- That if the full measure of statutory damages was actually imposed upon Paninos by a jury, said damages would run a very real risk of violating Paninos' Due Process rights.

Accordingly, counsel possessed sufficient information to conclude that, not only is the proposed Settlement fair, reasonable and adequate, it serves the Congressional purposes reflected in FACTA. At the same time, the proposed Settlement represents a responsible resolution of this litigation in that it does not seek to cripple a business or minimize injury to the Class. As courts have held, the views of the attorneys actively conducting the litigation, while not conclusive, are

"entitled to significant weight." See, e.g., Fisher Bros. v. Cambridge-Lee Indus., Inc., 630 F. Supp. 482, 488 (E.D. Pa. 1985); see also, Ellis v. Naval Air Rework Facility, 87 F.R.D. 15, 18 (N.D. Cal. 1980) ("the fact that experienced counsel involved in the case approved the settlement after hard-fought negotiations is entitled to "considerable weight."), aff'd 661 F.2d 939 (9th Cir. 1981).

### 6. Continued Litigation Would Be Long, Complex and Expensive.

The FACTA class action claims at issue are, by definition, complex, and they implicate unsettled areas of applicable law. While Class Counsel would not have asserted the claims if they were not confident that they could make persuasive arguments in favor of both liability and class certification, they acknowledge that if the claims were fully litigated, Plaintiffs would have to navigate significant, albeit non-binding, adverse authority.

The most obvious example of this dynamic is in the context of class certification where there has been a growing body of federal district court decisions refusing to certify FACTA class actions based upon an asserted lack of "superiority" under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b). See, e.g, Najarian v. Charlotte Russe, Inc., CV No. 07-501 (C.D.Ca. June 12, 2007)(Klausner, J.); Spikings v. Cost Plus, Inc., 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44214 (C.D. Ca. May 25, 2007)(Walter, J.); Soualian v. International Coffee and Tea LLC, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44208 (C.D. Ca. June 11, 2007)(Klausner, J.); Najarian v. Avis Rent-A-Car System, CV No. 07-588 (C.D. Ca. June 11, 2007)(Klausner, J.); Lopez v. KB Toys Retail, Inc., CV No. 07-144 (C.D. Ca. July 17, 2007)(Walter, J.).

In addition, Plaintiffs must demonstrate Paninos' willful violation of FACTA's truncation requirements as a prerequisite to statutory damages. The law in this context is evolving, and in a best case scenario, the issue of willfulness would likely be a jury question.

Although substantial discovery was exchanged, more discovery would take place if the case went forward. Expert discovery would be likely, with the potential for extensive motion practice regarding the validity of expert opinions. Undoubtedly, if this case were tried, Paninos would contest the merits of the case on both factual and legal bases, and Paninos would contest the fairness of the underlying judgment amount if a judgment was rendered against it. The parties would have to brief and argue myriad issues regarding the underlying settlement and the applicable laws and statutes. The Settlement avoids this.

The Settlement permits a prompt resolution of the claims at issue, in a manner that is fair, reasonable and adequate to the Class, while at the same serving the Congressional purpose of encouraging the truncation of personal consumer credit data on receipts provided to consumers at the point of sale. Standing alone, the relatively expeditious resolution of the claims in dispute benefits the Class, specifically, and consumers, generally.

Courts have consistently held that, unless the proposed settlement is clearly inadequate, its acceptance and approval are preferable to the continuation of lengthy and expensive litigation with uncertain results. *In re Chambers Development Securities Litigation*, 912 F. Supp. 822, 837 (W.D. Pa. 1995); *see also, TBK Partners, Ltd. v. Western Union Corp.*, 517 F. Supp. 380, 389 (S.D.N.Y. 1981), aff'd, 675 F.2d 456 (2d Cir. 1982). Given the prospects for significant discovery, abundant motion practice, a jury trial and probable appeal process, as well as the substantial risks involved, a settlement at this time is beneficial to the Class. *In re First Commodity Corp. of Boston Customer Accounts Litig.*, 119 F.R.D. 301, 314 (D.Mass. 1987).

These factors thus plainly weigh in favor of approval of the proposed Settlement.

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the settling parties and the Class. The parties' proposed Final Approval Order is attached hereto as Exhibit 2, and the proffered Judgment is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

Dated: August 8, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA,

By: /s/ Mark J. Mickiewicz
PURCELL & WARDROPE CHTD.
10 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1200

Chicago, IL 60603 Tel: (312) 427-3900 Fax: (312) 427-3944

E-mail: mjm@pw-law.com

Counsel for the Defendant

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

By: s/Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr.

Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr. (IL #6231944)
Adam M. Tamburelli (IL #6292017)
ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.
77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 440-0020 telephone
(312) 440-4180 facsimile
www.attorneyzim.com

Counsel for the Plaintiffs and Class

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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) ) )	
Plaintiffs,	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	No: 10 CV 2991
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,	)	
Defendants.	)	

### CLASS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

#### RECITALS

- 1. Parties. This Class Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives"), on behalf of themselves and each of the Class Members as defined herein, on one hand, and PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA ("Defendant" or "Panino's") on the other. The parties to this Agreement are collectively referenced as the "Parties."
- 2. <u>Nature of the Litigation</u>. Plaintiffs filed the above captioned action on behalf of themselves and the Class in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division (the "Lawsuit"), alleging willful violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ("FACTA") amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). Specifically,

Plaintiffs claim that the Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1681c(g) when each Plaintiff received from the Defendant a computer-generated cash register receipt which displayed the expiration date of his credit card. Plaintiffs seek to recover for themselves and for each Class Member statutory damages for willful noncompliance with the FCRA. Panino's denies that it violated the FCRA, willfully or otherwise, and denies that the Class Members are entitled to any damages.

3. <u>Certification of Class</u>. The Parties stipulate to the certification of a class (the "Class") for settlement purposes, defined as:

All persons who, between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010, made a credit or debit card purchase at the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL and received, at the point of sale or transaction, a printed receipt which displayed the expiration date of that person's credit or debit card.

- 4. <u>Class Counsel</u>. In this Agreement, "Class Counsel" shall refer to Zimmerman Law Offices, P.C.
- Class for the claims alleged, but considers it desirable that the Lawsuit and the claims alleged therein be settled upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement in order to avoid further expense and burdensome, protracted litigation, and to put to rest all claims, known or unknown, that have been or might be asserted by Plaintiff or the Class members against Defendant. The Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class members, desire to settle their claims against Defendant, having taken into account through Class Counsel the risks, delay and difficulties involved in establishing a right to recovery in excess of that offered by this Agreement and the likelihood that the litigation will be further protracted and expensive. In consideration of the foregoing and other good and valuable consideration, Plaintiffs, counsel for the Class, and Defendant stipulate and agree

that the claims of the named Plaintiffs and the Class against Defendant in the Lawsuit should be and are hereby compromised and settled, subject to the approval of the Court, upon the following terms and conditions.

#### **TERMS**

6. Effective Date. This Agreement shall become effective (hereinafter the "Effective Date") upon the expiration of 5 days after the date upon which the Court's final order, judgment, or decree approving this Agreement as fair, reasonable and adequate to the Class is entered.

#### 7. Relief to Plaintiff and the Class.

- (a) Within 30 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, Defendant shall pay to each of the Plaintiffs, Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin, the lump sum of \$2,000, for their services as Class Representatives, subject to Court approval. Defendant agrees not to oppose Plaintiffs' request for approval of \$2,000 (each) as their recovery.
- Events on 12 (twelve) separate dates over the course of one year, with each Sale Event taking place approximately one month after the previous Sale Event so that approximately one Sale Event is held every month for one calendar year. The first such Sale Event will take place within 30 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement with Notice to begin prior thereto as set forth below. At each Sale Event, any person (except employees of Defendant) making a dine-in, carry-out and/or delivery purchase transaction at or from the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL shall receive an automatic discount of ten percent (10%) from the total pre-tax purchase price. This discount cannot be combined with any other coupon, discount, or sale. All persons, regardless of whether or not they are members of the Class, shall be entitled to receive the automatic discount on as many purchases

as they make during each Sale Event. There is no cap on this relief. The Defendant shall keep its Chicago restaurant open for the entire normal business hours during the Sale Event. If an act of God or unforeseeable circumstances beyond its control causes Defendant's Chicago restaurant to be unable to open for business on a day on which a Sale Event is scheduled, then Defendant shall hold the Sale Event on its next business day.

- 8. Attorney's Fees and Costs. Within 30 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, Defendant shall pay attorney's fees and costs in the lump sum of \$35,000 to Class Counsel, subject to Court approval. Defendant agrees not to oppose a request by Class Counsel for approval of attorney's fees and costs in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. Class Counsel's attorney's lien shall be automatically released upon receipt of said funds.
- 9. Notice of Class Settlement. Defendant shall, within 14 days after the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, cause actual notice in the form of Exhibit A, to be published for two consecutive days in the Chicago Tribune with local circulation around the Defendant's Chicago restaurant. Notice, in the form of Exhibit B will also be published on a website maintained by Class Counsel. All costs associated with the publication of notice shall be paid by Defendant.
- 10. Notice of Sale Events. Subject to Court approval, within 14 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, Defendant shall cause an advertisement of the first two Sale Events as described in Paragraph 7(b) above to be published for one day in the *Chicago Reader*. Said advertisement shall display the dates and terms of the first two Sale Events. Thereafter, the Defendant shall cause five additional advertisements to be published in the *Chicago Reader*. Each subsequent advertisement will be published within two months of the preceding advertisement and will display the dates and terms of the next two Sale Events taking place at the Defendant's

restaurant as provided in Paragraph 7(b) above. Notice in the *Chicago Reader* will be published a total of 6 times. The dates and terms displayed in all of the advertisements shall be consistent with this Agreement. Further, one week before each Sale Event, the Defendant shall cause an advertisement displaying the date and terms of the upcoming Sale Event to be published on its website and in its restaurant near its cash register. Both the website and in-store advertisements shall be posted throughout the week leading up to the Sale Event and shall be removed at the close of the Sale Event.

#### 11. Exclusions From And Objections To Settlement.

(a) Any person who falls within the Class definition may elect to "opt out" of the Settlement and thus exclude themselves from the Lawsuit and the Class. Any person who wishes to exercise this option must do so in writing by mail postmarked on or before the notice response deadline to Class Counsel at the address provided on the Class Notice. The person's election to optout must be signed by the Class member opting-out and must contain the following information: (1) the name of the Class member, (2) the current address of the Class member, (3) the date signed, and (4) a copy of the Panino's customer receipt. No Class member may opt-out through an actual or purported agent or attorney acting on behalf of the Class member unless a fully lawful power of attorney, letters testamentary or other comparable documentation or court order accompanies the request. Otherwise, those persons will be deemed to have forever waived their right to opt out of the Class. Any person who falls within the Class definition and properly opts out shall have no further role in the Lawsuit, shall not be bound by the release set forth in this Agreement, and shall not be entitled to any benefit from this settlement. After the notice response deadline, Class Counsel will promptly provide counsel for Panino's with a list of all persons submitting timely

notice of their intent to opt out of the Class. Any Class member who timely excludes him/herself from this settlement shall not be bound by any prior Court order or the terms of the Agreement and shall not be entitled to any of the monetary benefits set forth in the Agreement.

- (b) Any Class member who has not filed a timely, valid and proper written request for exclusion and who wishes to object to the fairness, reasonableness or adequacy of this Agreement, or to any award of attorney's fees and expenses, must file the objection with the Court and serve a copy of said objection upon Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant within 45 days of entry of the preliminary approval order. The Class Notice shall advise Class members of this option. Any objections must be in writing and timely submitted or else they are waived. Class Counsel and counsel for Panino's shall provide any such objections to the Court prior to the fairness hearing. The notice of objection must include the following information with the objection: (1) a statement of the desire to be heard at the fairness hearing and/or a statement of each objection asserted, (2) a detailed description of the facts underlying each objection (if any); and (3) a copy of any documents which the objector may offer during the fairness hearing, including a copy of the receipt giving rise to the objector's claims.
- 12. Release. Plaintiffs and each Class member who do not timely exclude themselves from this settlement will release and forever discharge Defendant, and its past, present or former parents, officers, directors, partners, members, principals, employees, agents, servants, predecessors, successors, subsidiaries, affiliates, shareholders, heirs, executors, trustees, attorneys, personal and legal representatives, beneficiaries, divisions, administrators, insurers, and assigns ("Released Parties") of and from all causes of action, suits, or claims, that were made or which could have been made by individuals comprising the Class or by Plaintiff on behalf of the above-defined Class in the

Lawsuit, for violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act as of the Effective Date of the Agreement. This release is conditioned upon the approval of the Agreement by the Court and Defendant meeting its obligations therein.

- 13. <u>Cooperation</u> Plaintiffs, Defendant and their respective attorneys and agents agree to cooperate fully with one another and to use their best efforts to effect the consummation of this Agreement, and the settlement, under the terms specified in this Agreement.
- 14. <u>Preliminary Approval</u> As soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement, the Parties shall make application to the Court for an order which:
  - a. Preliminarily approves this Agreement.
  - b. Schedules dates for objections, exclusions, and a hearing for final approval of this Agreement by the Court.
  - c. Approves the forms of Notice to the Class.
  - d. Finds that methods of Class Notice specified in Paragraphs 9 and 10 are the only forms of Notice required and that such Notice satisfies the requirements of due process and Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Parties agree to propose the form of preliminary approval order attached hereto as Exhibit C.

15. **Final Approval** Approximately 7 days prior to the final approval hearing, Class Counsel and counsel for the Defendant shall file a motion requesting that the Court enter a Final Order approving the terms of this Agreement as fair, reasonable and adequate, providing for the implementation of those terms and provisions, finding that the notice given to the class satisfies Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the requirements of due process, dismissing the Lawsuit without prejudice and without costs (except as otherwise provided herein), and retaining

jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this Agreement. The Final Order will also direct Defendant to file a certification with the Court within 14 days after the last Sale Event showing that the requisite notice and benefit to the Class as provided in Paragraphs 7(b) and 10 has been provided. Within fourteen (14) days after the filing of this certification, Defendant shall request the Court to enter an order dismissing the Lawsuit with prejudice. The Parties agree to submit a proposed Final Order in the form of Exhibit D to this Agreement.

16. <u>Notice of Exclusions and Objections</u> Requests for exclusion and notice of objections to this Agreement shall be sent to:

Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr.
ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.
77 West Washington Street
Suite 1220
Chicago, IL 60602

and notices to the Defendant shall be sent to:

Mark J. Mickiewicz PURCELL & WARDROPE, CHTD. 10 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60603

The persons and addresses designated in this paragraph may be changed by any signatory hereto by written notice to the other signatories hereto.

17. <u>Class Action Fairness Act</u> In compliance with Class Action Fairness Act, Defendant shall provide notice to appropriate federal and state officials under the Act. Said notice is to be sent by Defendant no more than ten days after the motion for preliminary approval is filed with the Court. The notice must comply with 28 U.S.C. §1715 and contain all necessary attachments referenced therein.

18. <u>Termination Of The Agreement</u> If the Court does not approve this settlement and the terms of this Agreement as set forth herein, or if the settlement and Agreement do not receive final approval after review by any court of competent jurisdiction for any reason, or is otherwise terminated in accordance with its terms, the Parties will be returned to their status immediately prior to execution of the Agreement as if this Agreement had never been made. Accordingly, upon any such termination for any reason, the Parties will be deemed to have preserved all their substantive or procedural rights or defenses with respect to the Lawsuit as of the date of execution of this Agreement.

#### 19. Miscellaneous

- (a) This is an integrated Agreement that supersedes all prior representations and agreements, if any, between the parties to this Agreement and their legal counsel. The Parties represent that they have not relied on any statements, oral or written, in making their decisions to enter into this Agreement. This Agreement may not be altered, amended or extinguished except by a writing that expressly refers to this Agreement and is signed subsequent to the execution of this Agreement by the Parties.
- (b) The Parties agree that any rule of interpretation to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party shall not apply to the interpretation of this Agreement.

  The Parties acknowledge that they are all represented by counsel and had input into the drafting of this Agreement.
- (c) This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted by the law of the State of Illinois without regard to its choice of law rules.
  - (d) This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be

deemed to be an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Facsimile signatures are acceptable for the execution of this Agreement.

- (e) The Parties further represent, warrant, and agree that, in executing this Agreement, they do so with full knowledge of any and all rights which they may have with respect to the claims released in this Agreement and that they have received independent legal advice from their attorneys with regard to the facts involved and the controversy herein compromised and with regard to their rights arising out of such facts.
- (f) This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, and to their respective agents, employees, representatives, trustees, officers, directors, shareholders, divisions, parent corporations, subsidiaries, heirs, assigns, and successors in interest.
- (g) Each of the individuals executing this Agreement warrants that he or she has authority to enter into the Agreement and legally bind the party for which he or she is signing.

[Signature Pages to Follow]

For Plaintiffs and the Class Members:

Robert O'Brien

Date

Nicolas Martin

Date

For Class Counsel with respect to release of attorneys' lien:

Thomas A. Zimmerman, Ir.

ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.

77 West Washington Street

Suite 1220

Chicago, IL 60602

[Defendant's Signature Pages To Follow]

For	Plain	tiffe.	and	the	Clace	Mam	here.
POI	F \$21.11	11111	2011111	1116	1 1288	ALC: N	HIPERS:

Robert O'Brien

Date

Nicholas Martin

Date

For Class Counsel with respect to release of attorneys' lien:

Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr.

ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.

77 West Washington Street

Suite 1220

Chicago, IL 60602

[Defendant's Signature Pages To Follow]

For Pi	zza Paninos	. Inc. d	/b/a Par	ino's Pizz	eria:

By: - 700

5-5-// Date

Title: Secretary

Approved as to Form:

Mark J. Mickiewicz

PURCELL & WARDROPE, CHITO.

10 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1200

Chicago, IL 60603

312-427-3900

312-427-3944

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# **EXHIBIT A**

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#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

ROBERT O'BRIEN AND NICHOLAS MARTIN, INDIVIDUALLY, AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED V.
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. D/B/A PANINO'S PIZZERIA, CASE NO. 10 CV 2991

# NOTICE OF CERTIFIED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

To: All persons who used a credit or debit card at Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010 – YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) FROM THE TOTAL OF THE PRE-TAX PURCHASE PRICE OF ANY DINE-IN, CARRY OUT AND/OR DELIVERY PURCHASE TRANSACTION MADE FROM PANINO'S PIZZA IN CHICAGO, IL, as set forth below.

Your rights may be affected by a lawsuit pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the "Court"). Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin ("Plaintiffs"), on behalf of all members of the class, have alleged that Pizza Panino's, Inc. d/b/a Panino's Pizzeria ("Panino's") violated certain requirements imposed by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ("FACTA"). Specifically, Plaintiffs claim that Panino's printed the expiration dates of its customers' credit or debit cards on guest receipts presented to them at Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL, in violation of FACTA as specifically set forth in the Complaint on file and available at the Court at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. NEITHER PLAINTIFF NOR ANY CLASS MEMBER HAS SUSTAINED ANY ACTUAL MONETARY INJURY AS A RESULT OF THE ISSUES IN DISPUTE IN THIS LITIGATION. HOWEVER, THE SETTLING PARTIES AGREE THAT FACTA PROHIBITS THE DISPLAY OF CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD EXPIRATION DATES ON CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD RECEIPTS PRESENTED TO CUSTOMERS AT THE POINT OF SALE.

Class members and any other member of the public need only make a purchase (or multiple purchases) from Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL during any or all of the Sale Events which will be advertised in the Chicago Reader, in the restaurant itself, and on Panino's website at <a href="http://www.paninospizzeria.com">http://www.paninospizzeria.com</a>, and you will automatically receive a 10% discount from your purchase price.

If you elect to be excluded from the class, you will not be bound by the terms and releases of the settlement or judgment of dismissal and orders in the above-captioned action. Any class member who does not request to be excluded will automatically be included in this action as a member of the class represented by the Plaintiffs, will be subject to and deemed to consent to the jurisdiction of the Court and its orders, and will be deemed to have released and thereafter be forever barred from asserting against the released parties any claims covered by the Settlement Agreement.

If you do not wish to participate in this settlement, you must notify Class Counsel in writing of your intention to be excluded. Your election to opt-out must be signed by the class member opting-out and must contain the following information: (1) the name of the class member, (2) the current address of the class member, (3) the date signed, and (4) a copy of the Panino's customer's receipt(s). The letter must be postmarked on or before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and must be addressed to the following: Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr., ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C., 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60602.

Only class members may object to the settlement, and persons who opt-out of the class may not object to the Settlement Agreement. Any class member who wishes to be heard orally at the Fairness Hearing, or who wishes for any objection to be considered, must file a written notice of objection by \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and include the following information with the objection: (1) a statement of the desire to be heard at the Fairness Hearing and/or a statement of each objection asserted, (2) a detailed description of the facts underlying each objection (if any); and (3) a copy of any documents which the objector may offer during the Fairness Hearing, including a copy of the receipt giving rise to your claims.

The objector must file the above documents with the Clerk of the Court at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604, and serve notice of the objection to Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr., ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C., 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60602, as well as defense counsel, at the following address: Mark J. Mickiewicz, PURCELL & WARDROPE, CHTD., 10 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60603

This is only a summary of the circumstances surrounding the litigation, the claims asserted, the class, the Settlement, and related matters. For more detailed information, you may review a copy of the full Settlement Agreement, the pleadings, records, and other papers on file in this litigation, which may be inspected during regular business hours at the Court.

If you wish to communicate with Class Counsel, you may do so by writing to Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr., Zimmerman Law Offices, P.C., 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60602; alternatively, you may call the offices of the firm at (312) 440-0020.

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This notice is not to be construed as an expression of any opinion by the District Court with respect to the merits of the respective claims or defenses of the parties.

/s/ The Honorable Geraldine Soat Brown, United States Magistrate Judge

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES IN THE MANNER SET FORTH ABOVE. THE COURT AND THE CLERK WILL NOT ANSWER LEGAL QUESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL CLAIMANTS. BY ISSUING THIS NOTICE, THE COURT EXPRESSES NO OPINION AS TO THE MERITS OF ANY CLAIMS OR DEFENSES ASSERTED IN THIS CIVIL ACTION. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT.

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EXHIBIT B

4113 MJM; SI189

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	)
Plaintiffs,	)
<b>v.</b>	) No: 10 CV 2991
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,	)
Defendants.	)

#### NOTICE OF CERTIFIED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

To: All persons who used a credit or debit card at Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010 — YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) FROM THE TOTAL OF THE PRE-TAX PURCHASE PRICE OF ANY DINE-IN, CARRY OUT AND/OR DELIVERY PURCHASE TRANSACTION MADE FROM PANINO'S PIZZA IN CHICAGO, IL, as set forth below.

YOU HAVE NOT BEEN SUED. THIS NOTICE IS INTENDED TO INFORM YOU ABOUT LITIGATION THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

On behalf of the named plaintiffs and all members of the class, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the "Court") has preliminarily approved a settlement. This notice is not to be construed as an expression of any opinion

by the Court with respect to the merits of the respective claims or defenses of the parties. Rather, this notice is sent merely to inform you of legal rights you may have with respect to the settlement.

#### I. BACKGROUND OF THE LITIGATION.

Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin, on behalf of all members of the class, ("Plaintiffs") have alleged that Pizza Panino's, Inc. d/b/a Panino's Pizzeria ("Panino's") violated certain requirements imposed by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act ("FACTA"). Specifically, Plaintiffs claim that Panino's printed the expiration dates of its customers' credit or debit cards on guest receipts presented to them at Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL, in violation of FACTA, as specifically set forth in the Complaint on file and available at the Court at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. NEITHER PLAINTIFFS NOR

ANY CLASS **MEMBER** HAS SUSTAINED ANY ACTUAL MONETARY INJURY AS A RESULT OF THE ISSUES IN DISPUTE IN THIS LITIGATION. HOWEVER. THE SETTLING PARTIES AGREE THAT FACTA PROHIBITS THE DISPLAY OF CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD EXPIRATION DATES ON CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD RECEIPTS PRESENTED CUSTOMERS AT THE POINT OF SALE.

#### II. CURRENT STATUS.

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2011, the Court preliminarily approved the settlement for the class as fair, adequate, and reasonable. If finally approved, the settlement will certify a class that will bind the named plaintiffs and all absent class members who do not exclude themselves from the class.

Under the terms of the settlement, class members and any other members of the public making a dine-in, carry-out and/or delivery purchase transaction at or from the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL shall receive an automatic discount of ten percent (10%) from the total pre-tax purchase price during any or all of twelve (12) Sale Events to be held over the course of one calendar year at Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL.

The amount paid in this settlement reflects an evaluation of the claims and potential recovery, considering the facts as known to counsel after discovery and careful investigation, the likelihood of prevailing at trial, and the likelihood that this litigation, if not settled now, would be further protracted and involve complex issues of fact and law. The amount is also based upon an evaluation of the potential recovery available under FACTA.

Class counsel believes that the settlement is fair and reasonable and that the class members should accept this settlement. In light of the risks and expenses of litigation and Panino's potential defenses, class counsel believes it is in the best interests of the class that the case be settled and that the settlement terms are fair and reasonable.

# III. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT ON CLASS MEMBERS.

If you elect to be excluded from the class, you will not be bound by the terms and releases of the settlement or judgment of dismissal and orders in the above-captioned action. Any class member who does not request to be excluded will automatically be included in this action as a member of the class represented by the named plaintiffs, will be subject to and deemed to consent to the jurisdiction of the Court and its orders, and will be deemed to have released and thereafter be forever barred from asserting any claims against the released parties with respect to any credit or debit account information that was printed on a receipt presented to such class member at the point of sale during the class period (June 3, 2008 through May 29, 2010). A complete description of the released claims is available in the Court file maintained at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

## IV. EXCLUSION FROM THE CLASS.

If you do not wish to participate in this settlement, you must notify Class Counsel in writing of your intention to be excluded. Your election to opt-out must be signed by the class member opting-out and must contain the following information: (1) the name of the class member, (2) the current address of the class member, (3) the date signed, and (4) a copy of the Panino's customer receipt. No class member may opt-out through an actual or purported agent

or attorney acting on behalf of the class member unless a fully lawful power of attorney, letters testamentary or other comparable documentation or court order accompanies the request. Further, the letter must be postmarked on or before 2011, and must be addressed to the following: Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr., ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C., 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60602. Failure to opt-out by the deadline, or to follow the above procedures, will result in a class member being bound by any judgments and orders in this case.

# V. OBJECTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT AND RIGHT TO INTERVENE.

Only class members may object to the settlement, and persons who opt-out of the class may not object to the settlement agreement. If you wish, you may enter an appearance in the action personally or through your own attorney at your own expense. You may also seek to intervene if at any time you believe your interests are not being fairly and adequately represented by the class representative and class counsel.

On or before \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2011, the objector must file the above documents with the Clerk of the Court at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604, and serve notice of the objection to plaintiffs' class counsel and defense counsel at the following addresses:

Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr.
ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C.
77 West Washington Street
Suite 1220
Chicago, IL 60602

Mark J. Mickiewicz PURCELL & WARDROPE, CHTD. 10 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60603

Objectors who fail to properly or timely file their objections with the Court, or to serve them as provided above, shall not be heard during the Fairness Hearing, nor shall their objections be considered by the Court.

#### VI. FINAL FAIRNESS HEARING.

The District Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement. You may attend and you may be able to speak, but it is not required. The Fairness Hearing will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. on , 2011 at the Court at the Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Room No. 1812, Chicago, Illinois 60604. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections or requests to be heard, the Court may consider them at the hearing. Defendant has agreed to pay class counsel fees and costs in the amount of \$35,000.00. The Court must approve this amount.

#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

# 1. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT?

(a) If you believe you are a member of the class and desire to participate in this settlement, you need only make a purchase (or multiple purchases) from Panino's Pizza in Chicago, IL during any or all of the Sale Events which will be advertised in the Chicago Reader, in the restaurant itself, and on Panino's website at http://www.paninospizzeria.com.

### 2. WHO REPRESENTS THE CLASS?

(a) Class Representative: The named plaintiffs are the class representatives and each named plaintiff alleges that he received a receipt from Panino's at the point of sale that displayed the expiration date of his credit card.

The class representatives have assisted class counsel in coordinating the prosecution of this action and in providing information needed to pursue the claims of all class members. The class representatives will be applying for an incentive award of \$2,000.00 each, which the Defendant has agreed to pay separately, and not from amounts available for class members.

(b) Class Counsel: In its order granting preliminary approval of the settlement and certifying the class for settlement, the District Court appointed Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr., as class counsel to represent the named plaintiffs and to represent the interests of the absent class members.

# 3. WHERE DO I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The foregoing is only a summary of the circumstances surrounding the litigation, the claims asserted, the class, the settlement, and related matters. You may seek the advice and guidance of your own private attorney, at your own expense, if you For more detailed information, you may review the pleadings, records, and other papers on file in this litigation, which may be inspected during regular business hours at the Court at the Dirksen Building, 219 Federal South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. If you wish to communicate with class counsel identified above. you may do so by writing to Zimmerman, Thomas A. ZIMMERMAN LAW OFFICES, P.C., 77 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60602; alternatively, you may call the offices of the firm at (312) 440-0020.

/s/ The Honorable Geraldine Soat Brown
United States Magistrate Judge

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# EXHIBIT C

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) ) )
Plaintiffs,	)
v.	) No: 10 CV 2991
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S	)
PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,	)
· ·	)
Defendants.	)

# ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, DIRECTING THE DISSEMINATION OF NOTICE, AND SCHEDULING A FINAL SETTLEMENT HEARING

The Court has considered the Class Action Settlement Agreement entered into by the parties and its exhibits, the joint motion of the Settling Parties for an order preliminarily approving a class action settlement, directing the dissemination of notice and setting a final settlement hearing, and all other papers filed in this action. The matter having been submitted and good cause appearing therefore:

#### The Court finds as follows:

- 1. All defined terms contained herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement executed by the Settling Parties and filed with this Court (the "Settlement Agreement");
- 2. The Class Representatives and Pizza Panino's, Inc. d/b/a Panino's Pizzaeria ("Panino's"), through their counsel of record in the Litigation, have reached an agreement to settle all claims in the Litigation;

- 3. The Court preliminarily concludes that, for the purposes of approving this settlement only and for no other purpose and with no other effect on the Litigation should the proposed Settlement Agreement not ultimately be approved or should the Effective Date not occur, the proposed Class likely meets the requirements for certification under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: (a) the proposed Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all Members of the Class is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the proposed Class, and there is a well-defined community of interest among members of the proposed Class with respect to the subject matter of the Litigation; (c) the claims of Class Representatives Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed Class; (d) Class Representatives Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy; (f) the counsel of record for the Class Representative, i.e., Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr. of the Zimmerman Law Offices, P.C., is qualified to serve as counsel for the Class Representatives in their own capacity as well as their representative capacity and for the Class; and (g) common issues will likely predominate over individual issues;
- 4. The moving parties also have presented to the Court for review a Class Action Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement proposes a Settlement that is within the range of reasonableness and meets the requirements for preliminary approval; and
- 5. The moving parties have presented to the Court for review a plan to provide notice to the proposed Class of the terms of the settlement and the various options the Class has, including, among other things, the option for Class Members to opt-out of the class action settlement; the option to be represented by counsel of their choosing and to object to the

proposed settlement. The notice will be published consistent with the Settlement Agreement. The notice proposed by the Settling Parties (i) constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances to all persons within the definition of the Class, (ii) is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation and their right to object or to exclude themselves from the settlement, (iii) is reasonable and constitutes due, adequate and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice, (iv) complies fully with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B), all substantive and procedural due process rights guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution and the United States Constitution, and any other applicable law, and (v) is the only Notice required of the Settlement.

Good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Settlement Agreement is preliminarily approved.
- 2. The Court certifies the following Class solely for the purpose of effectuating the Settlement:

All persons who, between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010, made a credit or debit card purchase at the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL and received, at the point of sale or transaction, a printed receipt which displayed the expiration date of that person's credit or debit card.

The Court expressly reserves the right to determine, should the occasion arise, whether the above-captioned Litigation may continue to be certified as a class action for purposes other than settlement, and Panino's retains all rights to assert that the Litigation may not be certified as a class action except for settlement purposes.

3. The Court preliminarily approves the settlement of the Litigation set forth in the Settlement Agreement as being fair, just, reasonable and adequate as to each of the Settling Parties and Class Members, and sufficient to warrant dissemination of Notice to the Class. This

determination permitting Notice to the Class is not a final finding, but is a determination that there is probable cause to submit the proposed settlement to the Class Members and to hold a Fairness Hearing to consider the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the proposed Settlement.

- 4. The Court approves, as to form and content, for distribution to Class Members, the Published Notice in the form of Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement.
- 5. The Court approves, as to form and content, for distribution to Class Members, the Long Form Notice in the form of Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement. The Court directs that the Long Form Notice be posted on Class Counsel's website (<a href="www.attorneyzim.com">www.attorneyzim.com</a>) and mailed by Class Counsel to all persons who request a copy from them.
- 6. A hearing shall be held before this Court at \_\_\_\_\_\_ a.m. on \_\_\_\_\_\_,
  2011 in Courtroom No. 1812, Dirksen Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL
  60604, to consider whether the settlement should be given final approval by the Court:
  - (a) Written objections by Class Members to the proposed settlement will be considered if received by Class Counsel on or before the Notice Response Deadline;
  - (b) At the Settlement Hearing, Class Members may be heard orally in support of or, if they have timely submitted written objections, in opposition to the settlement; and
  - (c) Class Counsel and counsel for Panino's should be prepared at the hearing to respond to objections filed by Class Members and to provide other information as appropriate, bearing on whether or not the settlement should be approved.
- 7. The Court finds that Robert O'Brien and Nicholas Martin are adequate representatives of the Class and are appointed the Class Representatives.

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8. The Court finds that Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr. of Zimmerman Law Offices, P.C. will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class and is appointed as Class Counsel.

9. In the event that the Effective Date occurs, all Class Members will be deemed to have forever released and discharged the Released Claims. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed null and void and shall have no effect whatsoever.

10. The Court may, for good cause, extend any of the deadlines set forth in this Order without notice to the Settlement Class.

DATED:	•	By:
		MAGISTRATE JUDGE GERALDINE SOAT BROWN

**EXHIBIT D** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) ) )
Plaintiffs,	)
v.  PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,  Defendants.	) No: 10 CV 2991 ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )
ORDER GRANTING FINAL AP	PROVAL OF SETTLEMENT
Having considered the Class Action Settler	nent Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"
and all other materials properly before the Court,	and having conducted an inquiry pursuant to
Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,	he Court finds that the Settlement Agreemen
was entered by all parties in good faith, and the S	ettlement Agreement is approved. The Cour
will simultaneously, or the Clerk of the Court	shall, enter the Judgment provided in the
Settlement Agreement. PIZZA PANINOS, INC.	l/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA shall disseminate
class relief to the Participating Claimants, Class R	epresentatives, Charity and Class Counsel, as
provided for in the Settlement Agreement.	
	·
<b>DATED:</b> , 2011 By:	
M <sub>A</sub>	GISTRATE JUDGE GERALDINE SOAT BROWN

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, ) Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly )

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

situated,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
v.	) No: 10 CV 2991	
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,  Defendants.	) ) ) )	
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Having considered the Class Action Settle	ement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement")	
and all other materials properly before the Court	, and having conducted an inquiry pursuant to	
Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,	the Court finds that the Settlement Agreement	
was entered by all parties in good faith, and the Settlement Agreement is approved. The Court		
will simultaneously, or the Clerk of the Cour	t shall, enter the Judgment provided in the	
Settlement Agreement. PIZZA PANINOS, INC.	d/b/a PANINO'S PIZZERIA shall disseminate	
the Class relief, and make the payments to the	Class Representatives and Class Counsel, as	
provided for in the Settlement Agreement.		
<b>DATED:</b> , 2011 By:	AGISTRATE JUDGE GERALDINE SOAT BROWN	



## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

ROBERT O'BRIEN and NICHOLAS MARTIN, Individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) ) )
Plaintiffs,	)
v.	) No: 10 CV 2991
PIZZA PANINOS, INC. d/b/a PANINOS	)
PIZZERIA, an Illinois Corporation, and DOES 1-10,	)
Defendants.	)

#### **JUDGMENT**

This matter came to be heard upon the joint motion of the Settling Parties for approval of the settlement set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement"), due and adequate notice having been given to the Class, and the Court having considered the Settlement Agreement, all papers filed and proceedings had herein and all oral and written comments received regarding the proposed settlement, and having reviewed the record in this Litigation, and good cause appearing,

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Court, for purposes of this Judgment and Order of Dismissal ("Judgment"), adopts all defined terms as set forth in the Settlement Agreement filed in this case.
- 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Litigation, the Class Representatives, the other Members of the Class and Pizza Paninos, Inc. d/b/a Paninos Pizzeria ("Paninos").



- 3. The Court finds that the distribution of the Class Notice, as provided for in the Preliminary Approval Order, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances to all persons within the definition of the Class and fully met the requirements of due process under the United States Constitution. Based on evidence and other material submitted in conjunction with the Settlement Hearing, the notice to the class was adequate.
  - 4. The Court finds in favor of settlement approval.
- 5. The Court approves the settlement of the above-captioned action, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, each of the releases and other terms, as fair, just, reasonable and adequate as to the Settling Parties. The Settling Parties are directed to perform in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 6. All of the Released Claims are dismissed with prejudice as to the Class Representative and the other Members of the Class. The Settling Parties are to bear their own attorneys' fees and costs, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreement.
- 7. Solely for purposes of effectuating this settlement, this Court has certified a class of all Members of the Class, as that term is defined in and by the terms of the Settlement Agreement, as follows:

All persons who, between June 3, 2008 and May 29, 2010, made a credit or debit card purchase at the Defendant's restaurant in Chicago, IL and received, at the point of sale or transaction, a printed receipt which displayed the expiration date of that person's credit or debit card.

8. With respect to the Class and for purposes of approving this settlement only, this Court finds and concludes that: (a) the Members of the Class are ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the Class, and there is a well-defined community of interest among Members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the Litigation; (c) the claims of Class Representatives, Robert

O'Brien and Nicholas Martin, are typical of the claims of the Members of the Class; (d) the Class Representatives have fairly and adequately protected the interests of the Members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy and common issues predominate over individual issues; and (f) the counsel of record for the Class Representatives, *i.e.*, Thomas A. Zimmerman, Jr. of the Zimmerman Law Offices, P.C., is qualified to serve as counsel for the plaintiffs in their individual and representative capacities and for the Class, and Class Counsel has fairly and adequately protected the interests of the Members of the Class.

9. By this Judgment, the Class Representatives shall release, relinquish and discharge, and each of the Settlement Class Members shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished and discharged all Released Claims (including Unknown Claims), including, without limitation, all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever including, without limitation, statutory, constitutional, contractual or common law claims, whether known or unknown, whether or not concealed or hidden, against Paninos' and each of its affiliates, predecessors, successors, divisions, joint ventures and assigns, and each of those entities' past or present owners, directors, officers, employees, partners, members, principals, agents, underwriters, insurers, co-insurers, re-insurers, shareholders, attorneys, accountants or auditors, banks or investment banks, associates, personal or legal representatives, that accrued at any time on or prior to May 29, 2010, for any type of relief, including, without limitation, damages, unpaid costs, penalties, liquidated damages, punitive damages, interest, attorney fees, litigation costs, restitution, or equitable relief, based on any and all claims in any way related to the publication of cardholder account information, including but not limited to the expiration

date of a customer's credit or debit card, upon a receipt provided to the cardholder at the point of sale of the transaction. This matter is hereby dismissed with prejudice.

- 10. Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of the settlement: (i) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission of, or evidence of, the validity of any Released Claim, or of any wrongdoing or liability of Paninos; or (ii) is or may be deemed to be or may be used as an admission of, or evidence of, any fault or omission of Paninos in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency or other tribunal. Paninos may file the Settlement Agreement and/or the Judgment from this Litigation in any other action that may be brought against it in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.
- 11. The only Class Members entitled to relief pursuant to this Judgment are Participating Claimants and the Class Representative. Neither the Settlement Agreement nor this Judgment will result in the creation of any unpaid residue or residual.
- 12. The Court directs that, upon the Settlement becoming Final, Paninos shall conduct twelve (12) Sale Events in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, providing notice of each Sale Event as directed in the Agreement. Counsel for Paninos file a certification with the Court within 14 days after the last Sale Event showing that the requisite notice and benefit to the Class as provided in Paragraphs 7(b) and 10 of the Agreement has been provided.
- 13. Paninos has agreed to pay Class Counsel their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in this matter in the amount of \$35,000. The Court finds that this agreement is fair and reasonable. Paninos is directed to make such payments in accordance with the terms of the

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Settlement Agreement. Paninos has also agreed to pay each Plaintiff an incentive award in the

amount of \$2,000, and the Court finds this agreement to be fair and reasonable, and Paninos is

directed to make such payment in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

14. The Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Litigation, the

Class Representatives, the Class, and Paninos for the purposes of supervising the

implementation, enforcement, construction, administration, and interpretation of the Settlement

Agreement and this Judgment.

15. This document shall constitute a judgment for purposes of Rule 58 of the Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED:	By:	
	N	MAGISTRATE JUDGE GERALDINE SOAT BROWN